

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 2 and 25 without prejudice or disclaimer and AMEND the claims and ADD new claims 28 and 29 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A product information supply method comprising:
receiving combination information about combinations of products, ~~containing a relationship between the combined products,~~ from a terminal of an individual who has bought the combination of products, wherein the combination information comprises a relationship between combined products, the relationship comprises at least one of compatibility, complement, and added value, and a type of use which indicates a use and a scene of which a related product of the combined products is useful to and a profile about the individual;

making registration of said combination information in a database, so that the combination information can be accumulated;

searching the database in response to inquiries about the combination information extracted from the database, wherein each of the inquiries corresponds to a choice signal that indicates a product chosen at a terminal of a consumer in order to specify a candidate for at least one purchase and place a buy order, and the combination information extracted from the database has been registered by an individual having a similar profile to the profile of the consumer;

supplying the terminal of the consumer the combination information which comprises the relationship between the combined products, a type of use, and a degree of usefulness of the combination information;

allowing a plurality of consumers to each purchase a same combination of products via a network, as that of the combination of products purchased by the individual; and

determining priority of supplying a consumer with the combination information and the degree of usefulness based on a number of times a purchase of the same combination of products have been made based on the combination information, and based on a number of times reference has been made to a Web page that introduces the same combination of products described in the combination information as link information.

2. (cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The product information supply method according to claim 1, wherein said inquiries are sent from terminals of said consumers.

4. (Previously Presented) The product information supply method according to claim 1, wherein said inquiries are sent by the terminals of the consumers via a Web server that provides an online shop that sells the products included in the combination of products.

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) The product information supply method according to claim 1, further comprising providing the individual who has made registration of the combination information with a reward based on the number of times a purchase of the same combination of products have been made on the basis of the combination information registered by said individual, or based on the number of times reference has been made to the Web page by the combination information.

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) The product information supply method according to claim 1, further comprising providing, from a seller who sells the combination of products or an operating person who operates the Web site, a managing person who manages the database, with a reward based on the number of times a purchase of the same combination of products have been made on the basis of the combination information registered by said individual, or based on the number of times reference has been made to the Web page by the combination information.

10. (Original) The product information supply method according to claim 1, wherein the combination information stored in the database is registered by an e-mail or a Web page for making registration.

11. (Previously Presented) The product information supply method according to claim 1, further comprising:

confirming that a buy order of the same combination of products is placed on the basis of

the corresponding combination information extracted from the database and sent to the consumer; and

sending an e-mail to the terminal of the consumer to ask the consumer to make registration of combination information to be stored in the database after a predetermined period lapses from confirmation.

12. (Previously Presented) The product information supply method according to claim 1, further comprising producing marketing information from the combination information, the marketing information being sold to another person or organization.

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A computer readable recording medium storing a program for supplying a plurality of users who operate terminals to purchase a combination of products via a network, said program causing a computer to perform:

storing combination information about the combination of products that could be bought together;

registering combination information that has been supplied by a person who has bought the product, wherein the combination information comprises a relationship between combined products, the relationship comprises at least one of compatibility, complement, and added value, and a type of use which indicates a use and a scene of which a related product of the combined products is useful to, and a profile about the person;

searching the database on the basis of inquiries about the combination of products from the users, wherein each of the inquiries corresponds to a choice signal that indicates a product

chosen at a terminal of a user in order to specify a candidate for at least one purchase and to place a buy order, extracting the combination information from the database that has been registered by a user having a similar profile to the user and sending the extracted corresponding combination information ~~extracted~~ comprising the relationship between the combined products, a type of use, and a degree of usefulness of the combination information ~~therefrom~~ to the terminals of the users as requested; and

storing a value indicating a reward based on a number of times a purchase of the same combination of products has been made by the users or a number of times reference has been made to a Web page that introduces the combination of products, when reference is made by another user to the combination information that has been registered by said person or reference is made to the Web page described in the combination information as link information; and

determining priority of supplying a user with the combination information and the degree of usefulness based on the number of times a purchase of the same combination of products have been made based on the combination information, and based on the number of times reference has been made to the Web page by the corresponding combination information.

21. (Currently amended) A product information supply apparatus comprising:

a database storing combination information about a combination of products purchased by a person, wherein the combination information comprises a relationship between combined products, the relationship comprises at least one of compatibility, complement, and added value, and a type of use which indicates a use and a scene of which a related product of the combined products is useful to, and a profile about the person;

registration making unit for making registration of combination information that has been supplied by the person who has bought the combination of products;

information outputting unit for searching the database on the basis of inquiry information about the combination of the products from users, wherein each of the inquiries corresponds to a choice signal that indicates a product chosen at a terminal of a consumer in order to specify a candidate for at least one purchase and to place a buy order, and the combination information extracted from the database has been registered by a consumer having a similar profile to the profile of the consumer and sending the extracted corresponding combination information ~~extracted therefrom~~ comprising the relationship between the combined products, a type of use, and a degree of usefulness of the combination information to terminals of the users;

reward storing unit for storing a value indicating a reward based on a number of times a purchase of a same combination of products has been made by the users or a number of times reference has been made to a Web page that introduces the combination of products, when

reference is made by another user to the combination information that has been registered by said person or reference is made to the Web page described in the combination information as link information; and

priority determining unit for determining priority of supplying a user with the combination information and the degree of usefulness based on the number of times a purchase of the same combination of products have been made based on the combination information, and based on the number of times reference has been made to the Web page by the corresponding combination information.

22. (cancelled):

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)

26. (currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving combination information including a combination of related products purchased by an individual via a terminal over a network, the combination information including a type of use, a relationship between the related products, and a degree of usefulness;
registering the combination information in a database;
forwarding the registered combination information to other users via the network by prioritizing the registered combination information and the degree of usefulness based on a number of times the registered combination information has been purchased by other users, and based on a number of times reference has been made to a Web page including the registered combination information; and
allowing users to purchase a same combination of related products as that of the registered combination information via the network.

27. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising :
means for receiving combination information including a combination of related products purchased by an individual via a terminal over a network, the combination information including a type of use, a relationship between the related products, and a degree of usefulness;
means for registering the combination information in a database;

means for forwarding the registered combination information to other users via the network by prioritizing the registered combination information and the degree of usefulness based on a number of times the registered combination information has been purchased by other users, and based on a number of times reference has been made to a Web page including the registered combination information; and

means for allowing users to purchase a same combination of related products as that of the registered combination information via the network.

28. (new) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the degree of usefulness represents a degree of interest in the combination information shown by other users.

29. (new) The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising a means for displaying a notice to be considered at the time of purchasing a related product of the combination of related products or a caution message describing a negative matter such that the related product is not recommended.